

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY
State College, New Mexico
September 21, 1945

F A R M W A R N E W S

NO. 157

USDA REASSURES EGG PRODUCERS

The Government is preparing an egg-buying program to support the recently weakened egg market. The Department of Agriculture will carry out the Government commitment to support the price of producer's eggs.

The egg market has been running weak and unsteady - particularly on under-grade and current receipt eggs - probably because military buying of frozen eggs has declined sharply. Army cancellations of dried egg contracts will not mean a wholesale dumping of frozen eggs on the market, the Department declares. Any frozen eggs, classed as surplus property, will be disposed of in an orderly manner. The armed forces are still buying shell eggs to feed U. S. troops in this country and abroad, England and Europe still need dried eggs. Plans are being worked out to supply the demands abroad. If these plans are completed satisfactorily, the export market can be expected to take care of the temporary surplus, after our own demands are met, the USDA believes.

FARMER'S SHARE OF FOOD DOLLAR

Farmers have received 54 cents out of each consumer's food dollar for most of 1945. The 54 cents is one cent below the record highs recorded in April 1918, December 1944, and January 1945. Seasonal lows in the farmer's share are usually reached in June and July.

NO COMPLICATIONS IN BEEF PAYMENTS

Farmers are finding little change in the procedure for applying for and receiving beef production payments through their county AAA offices as the result of the removal of slaughter quotas on packers. Payments are being made on eligible cattle sold to any slaughterer. County offices require certification

(OVER)

of sale by the buyer and evidence of past ownership to prevent duplicate payments on the same cattle. The rate of payment is 50 cents per hundred pounds for sales of "good" cattle weighing 800 pounds or more. Forty million dollars has been set aside for the program, which will continue through next June 30. The subsidy is designed to encourage feeding of cattle to heavier weights.

MANY FARM WORKERS NEEDED IN HARVESTS

War's end, with troop demobilization and war industries cut-backs, has meant some scattered increase in the farm labor supply. Off-setting these gains, however, is the departure of workers from farms following the lifting of manpower controls. Several million workers are needed during October and November to harvest the Nation's 1945 bumper crops, the Department of Agriculture reports. Shortage of farm labor in some areas is being reported as at its tightest point of the war years.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE

World cattle numbers at the start of 1945 were 711 million head, 2% less than the 1936-40 average of 723 million, the USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations reports. A further reduction in 1945 is indicated due to losses resulting from military operations, less favorable feed supplies and less assurance of favorable economic conditions during the next few years.

North America has about 113 million of the cattle. European cattle numbers showed a 5% decrease at the start of 1945 and were 13% less than the 1936-40 average of about 110 million head. Australia's numbers at 13.5 million are down about 5%. Asiatic livestock information is incomplete, but in the Philippines a reduction of 62% in cattle numbers between 1939 and 1945 has been reported and Burma's total dropped 20% during Japanese occupancy. There is believed to have been little change in the totals in China, India and Japan.

(MORE)

LUMBER PRODUCTION LESS THAN YEAR AGO

Early relief for the tight lumber situation that confronted farmers throughout the war is not yet in sight with the War Production Board reporting that lumber production for the first six months of 1945 was 10.3 percent less than that for the first half of 1944. WPB has announced that distribution of lumber will be free from all control on October 1.

FARM BRIEFS

Industrial users will get no more sugar in the fourth quarter than in the third quarter of the 1945 calendar year, according to OPA. Rationing rates for industrial users -- 50 percent of the 1941 base for candy makers, 60 percent for bakers, and 110 percent for pharmaceutical manufacturers -- remain unchanged.

* * * * *

USDA reports that additional quantities of canned fruits and canned vegetables are headed for civilian consumption due to decreased Government requirements from the 1945 pack which will be reflected in reduced set-aside percentages on nine major canned fruits and six major canned vegetables.

* * * * *

Under the Nazi agricultural programs, the Germans had an office in each province and in each of the 700 counties. Set up along Nazi lines, every 50 farms were supervised by a committee, headed by a leader. Goals were set for agricultural production and crops were delivered to the committee. The individual farmer was allowed to keep only a part of his production. When a farmer was suspected of holding back too much for himself, the Gestapo took action.

* * * * *

Farmers are urged to increase their protection against any possible price collapse after this war by investing in War Bonds during the Victory Loan campaign which starts October 29. Treasury officials point out that bank deposits of farmers are more than three times as large as in 1941. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson recommends the buying and holding of War Bonds until the danger of inflation is past.

#

